

SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

The Gay Capital in the Most Alluring Aspect Imaginable.

The Usual Round of Receptions, Balls, and Other Festivities.

Midwinter Gayeties Slipping Against Snow, Sash, Ice, and Rain.

A Faithful Chronicle of the Past Week's Events.

The President will leave for New York Tuesday next, and will have a reception at the Union League Club on Wednesday evening. He will not be able to attend the Astor ball on Monday, but will dine with Mrs. Astor on Thursday. On his return a series of dinners and receptions will be arranged, and the white house will be very busy through February. Mrs. McElroy and her daughter arrived on Tuesday, and will be here for some weeks. Nothing has yet been settled definitely about the white house entertainments, and it is not known whether she will resume her Saturday afternoon receptions during her stay.

Gen. E. F. Beale has just returned from a visit to Gen. Grant in New York, going there in response to a telegram from his friend asking for some company during his tedious time of his confinement to the house. General Beale is recovering from the injury, and although he suffered excruciating pain for the first day or two after his fall, no permanent ill will result from it beyond a little stiffness and lameness when he begins to walk. Gen. Beale hopes to have Gen. and Mrs. Grant pay him a visit in February.

This has been an unusually busy week from the beginning, the Monday afternoon calls bringing out nearly all of the ladies. On Monday evening there was the ball at the arsenal, at which some 200 guests were present; a reception at Senator Pandoleon's, a luncheon at Miss Davidge's, and a general at Miss Durfee's. On Tuesday Mrs. Astor and the Misses Bascom gave their calling card busily kept up all afternoon in spite of bad weather. Tuesday evening there was a large and most enjoyable card reception at Chief Justice Waite's, receptions at the German legation, and at Mrs. Anthony Pollock's. On Wednesday the wives of the cabinet officers and Mrs. Carlisle had large receptions. Senator Fair gave a dinner party at Wormley's, Commissioners and Mrs. Foulke also gave a dinner. Mrs. A. A. Hayes and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Allen had a large and brilliant reception in the evening. Last night the Russian minister and Madame de Struya held their usual Friday evening receptions, and Mr. and Mrs. John B. Alley had a large party.

There is lament on all sides at the lateness of the hours at evening receptions and entertainments, and as there seems to be such a decided feeling on the subject, it is strange that more people have not taken a decided stand in the matter. The ladies who have invited their guests at 8 p.m. claim that their attempts were not received with evident approval, since no one responded at that hour.

The army and navy garrison on Wednesday night had a very late party, and nearly every one in the hotel districts, restaurants and young girls—had an object to get to the armory. Even the officers of the navy were seen to yawn behind their hands before the German bugle, and one eminent member said he was sleepy and wanted to go home at 11 o'clock. With this feeling so universal, it is a great pity that some change cannot be effected, as about every man there had to be at his office or committee room the next morning, and the ladies had the Thursday calls and receptions pending.

"Cinderella balls" are a passing rage in London just now, according to society journals, and the chaperones and debutantes would welcome a few of them here. A cynical western man who watched the pertains of the social scene, said that the young ladies were "holding high for a few feet," and this appalling certainty tends to support the matter with the sex which undoubtedly rules in such matters. Several ladies have asked that the matter should be mentioned in this column and a plea made for earlier hours.

There were some unusually handsome toilets at the garrison on Wednesday night, and but for an unfeudal rumor to the effect that the armory floor was rhinoceros to train many more rich dresses would have been seen. The armory has one of the finest dancing floors in the city, and many prefer the halye either of the others where such entertainments have formerly been held. The ladies who hold their most fetching gowns in reserve were well provoked when they saw what a pedestal the broad hall was to display fine toilettes. Mrs. Wilder wore a full dress of white brocade with a train of long low corsage. The front was embroidered with pearls and white jets, and diamonds and orange pins were caught in the lace at the foot of the corsage. She carried an immense bouquet of jacquemine and mornet roses, tied with long red satin ribbons. Mrs. Goules wore a mauve and habototie silk. The wife of Senator Palmer, of Michigan, wore a superb Worth dress of dark myrtle green velvet, with front of Silesian green ottoman, covered with a deep fringe of chevillie satin and silver beads. A Medicean collar of stony wired point lace finished the square neck, and she wore necklace, bracelets, and full set of diamond ornaments. Miss De Mille, of Detroit, wore a long dress of white silk, with corsage bouquet of roses. Mrs. Calton was attired in ruby velvet, a short dancing dress of white silk, with point lace hem, and Miss Whiting assisted the wife of Representative Wadsworth at her reception Tuesday afternoon, and accompanied her to Chief Justice Waite's in the evening.

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